

## PREVENTING LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

Metro Water Services (MWS) views public health as a core part of our mission. MWS consistently provides safe, reliable water services that meet or exceed all state and federal standards for public health, including compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule.

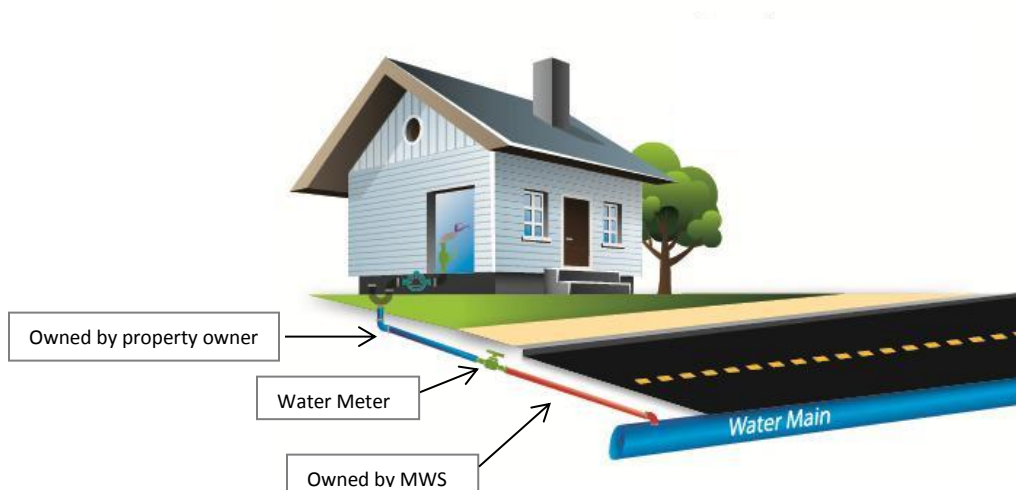
Lead leached into drinking water as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead, such as lead service lines or brass and chrome-plated brass household fixtures, can be a potential health risk.

Metro Water Services stopped using lead pipes in 1955 and in addition to a lead service line replacement program, has implemented a corrosion control program as required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Association and the TN Department of Environment and Conservation.

MWS feeds a blended phosphate solution to control corrosion in the water distribution system. The combination of ortho/poly phosphate is added to the finished water and reacts to inhibit corrosion of water mains. The corrosion control treatment is safe for human health and helps build a protective coating in the pipes. Once this coating forms, there is a protective barrier between any metal in the plumbing and your drinking water.

Following EPA guidelines, we regularly monitor drinking water in the distribution system for lead. The EPA has set an action level for lead at 15 micrograms per liter (equivalent to approximately 15 seconds of time in 32 years). Metro Water Services sample results have never exceeded the action levels for lead including samples taken at representative properties with known lead water service lines.

When MWS encounters lead service lines during water main construction or during repair projects, we replace the Metro owned portion between the water main and the meter. However, the property owner owns the service line from the meter to the home/business and is responsible for any work performed on that segment. As stated above all water sampling results are well below the EPA action level but if you have or suspect you have lead service lines on the property owner side of the meter and are concerned we recommend that you pursue options through a licensed plumber or contractor.



**Additional steps homeowners can take to reduce their risk of lead in drinking water are:**

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** If it hasn't been used for several hours, run the water for three to five minutes to clear most of the lead from the water. (To conserve water, remember to catch the flushed tap water for plants or some other household use such as cleaning.)
- **Always use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.** Never cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Never use water from the hot water tap to make formula.
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- **Periodically remove and clean the faucet screen/aerator.** While removed, run the water to eliminate debris.
- **You may consider investing in a home water treatment device or alternative water source.** When purchasing a water treatment device, make sure it is certified under NSF/ANSI 53 to remove lead. Search for certified products at NSF International (800-NSF-8010) or Water Quality Association (630-505-0160).
- **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead.** Brass faucets, fittings and valves may leach lead into drinking water. Products sold after Jan. 4, 2014, must by law contain very low levels of lead.
- **Have a licensed electrician check your wiring.** Your home electrical system may be attached to your service line or elsewhere in your plumbing. If this connection is electrified, it can accelerate corrosion. Check with a licensed electrician to correct ground faults and evaluate your local electric code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. **DO NOT** attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper bonding or grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.

**Additional information:**

The MWS Annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) <http://ccr.nashville.gov> provides information about your drinking water and the treatment process.

You can also contact the Metro Health Department or talk to your doctor about reducing your family's exposure to lead.

**Hotlines:**

National Lead Information Center: 800-424-LEAD  
EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 800-426-4791